

Message Text

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ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 PRS-01 /005 W

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O R 010900Z MAY 74 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5961

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 6138

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IOP/FW

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK, HONG KONG AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE FOR S/PRS AND EA/P

SECDEF FOR OASD/PA

E.O. 11652: NA

SUBJECT: KHMER SITUATIONER-MAY 1, 1974

1. FANK UNITS AT KAMPOT MADE CONTINUED PROGRESS TUESDAY IN EXPANDING AND CONSOLIDATING THE DEFENSE PERIMETER NORTH AND EAST OF THE CITY. ON THE SOUTHEAST, FANK MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS AND PENETRATED WELL-FORTIFIED COMMUNIST POSITIONS ALONG WITH EAST BANK OF THE RIVER WHICH CONNECTS KAMPOT WITH THE SEA. FIGHTING WAS HEAVY, AND FANK SUSTAINED MODERATE CASUALTIES WHILE KILLING TWENTY-THREE COMMUNIST SOLDIERS.

2. GOVERNMENT UNITS DROVE COMMUNIST ELEMENTS FROM THEIR REMAINING POSITIONS AT THE CUT ON ROUTE 1 TWENTY-FIVE KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH ON TUESDAY. THE HIGHWAY IS NOW OPEN FOR TRAFFIC FROM PHNOM PENH TO NEAK LUONG. THIRTEEN FANK SOLDIERS WERE KILLED DURING THE PAST TWO AND ONE-HALF DAYS OF FIGHTING TO RE-OPEN THE ROAD.

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SEVENTY-TWO COMMUNIST SOLDIERS WERE REPORTED KILLED AND SUB-

STANTIAL STOCKS OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION SEIZED.

3. GOVERNMENT TROOPS AT TAKEO ALSO EXPANDED THE NORTH-EAST DEFENSE PERIMETER TUESDAY. SOUTH OF THE CITY THEY FOUND NINETEEN DEAD COMMUNIST SOLDIERS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED AS A RESULT OF KAF AIRSTRIKES EARLY IN THE WEEK.

4. FANK REPORTED KILLING TWENTY-FIVE COMMUNIST SOLDIERS DURING A COMMUNIST ATTACK TUESDAY AGAINST GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ON THE SOUTHEASTERN DEFENSE PERIMETER OF PREY VENG. FANK CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS LIGHT. FANK ALSO REPORTED THAT ITS FORCES CONDUCTED THREE SWEEP OPERATIONS NORTH AND SOUTH-WEST OF THE CITY ON TUESDAY. CASUALTIES WERE LIGHT ON BOTH SIDES.

5. FANK REPORTED CAPTURING ELEVEN COMMUNIST SOLDIERS IN FIGHTING AT MOHA SANH ON ROUTE 4 WEST OF KOMPONG SPEU. FANK PATROLS ALSO ENGAGED COMMUNIST ELEMENTS TUESDAY NINE KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF KOMPONG CHHNANG AS WELL AS NORTHEAST AND SOUTH-WEST OF KOMPONG THOM. TWO COMMUNIST SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND FANK CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS LIGHT.

6. FANK REPORTED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN COMMUNIST GROUND AND MORTAR ATTACKS TUESDAY AGAINST GOVERNMENT POSITIONS NORTH, SOUTHEAST AND SOUTHWEST OF LOVEK. FANK SUSTAINED LIGHT CASUALTIES DURING THE DAY.

7. COMMUNIST GUNNERS FIRED THREE 75MM SHELLS INTO TAKHMAU CITY ON TUESDAY KILLING THREE CIVILIANS AND WOUNDING ELEVEN OTHERS. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE BASSAC-ROUTE 30 CORRIDOR DECREASED SOMEWHAT YESTERDAY. FANK REPORTED NO PROGRESS IN EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COMMUNIST FORCES FROM THE AREA.

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